

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 /041 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:CF

APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED

-----107910 041953Z /47

P 041931Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: APRIL 4 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL  
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD DECIDED AGAINST PRODUCING NEUTRON BOMB. "OFFICIALS SAID THAT MR. CARTER HAD ACTED AGAINST ADVICE OF MOST OF HIS TOP FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS IN DECIDING RECENTLY THAT MOVING AHEAD WITH WEAPON RAN COUNTER TO HIS GOALS OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. DECISION, OFFICIALS SAID, WAS MADE JUST BEFORE MR. CARTER'S DEPARTURE LAST WEEK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA AND FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED LATER THIS WEEK." BURT SAID PRESIDENT  
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DENT, IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT, IS EXPECTED TO SAY U.S. WILL NOT PRODUCE WEAPON AND THAT HE EXPECTS SOVIET UNION TO SHOW SIMILAR RESTRAINT IN DEPLOYMENT OF NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BURT SAID SOME TOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE HOPING THAT PRESIDENT MIGHT BE PERSUADED THIS WEEK TO DELAY OUTRIGHT CANCELLATION OF WEAPON AND SIMPLY ANNOUNCE DECISION TO DEFER PRODUCTION INDEFINITELY. IN THIS WAY, CARTER COULD LEAVE

OPEN POSSIBILITY OF DEPLOYING NEUTRON WEAPON AT LATER DATE.  
BURT SAID OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS ONLY SLIM

POSSIBILITY THAT CARTER WOULD GO BACK ON HIS DECISION TO  
HALT PROGRAM. BURT SAID NATO OFFICIALS IN BRUSSELS HAD  
PUT TOGETHER COMPROMISE, WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED  
MARCH 20, THAT WOULD HAVE ENABLED U.S. TO BEGIN PRODUCING  
NEUTRON WEAPON LATER THIS YEAR BUT WOULD HAVE DELAYED  
DEPLOYMENT FOR TWO YEARS WHILE TESTING MOSCOW'S REACTION  
TO LIMITING IT IN RETURN FOR RESTRICTIONS ON SS-20. TOP  
FOREIGN POLICY AIDES, INCLUDING BRZEZINSKI AND VANCE,  
BURT REPORTED, "ARE SAID TO HAVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS  
IDEA. OFFICIALS SAID THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITHIN  
THIS GROUP THAT FAILURE TO GO AHEAD WITH WEAPON WOULD  
CAST DOUBT ON AMERICAN LEADERSHIP WITHIN NATO AND WOULD  
ALSO BE SEEN AS GIVING IN TO SOVIET EFFORTS AT PREVENTING  
DEPLOYMENT. OFFICIALS SAID THAT TWO WEEKS AGO MR. CARTER  
SCRAPPED THIS PLAN AND DECIDED INSTEAD TO FORGO DEPLOY-  
MENT OF WEAPON ALTOGETHER. OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO  
PROVIDE AN EXACT EXPLANATION FOR DECISION, BUT ONE SAID  
THAT MR. CARTER FELT THAT MOVING AHEAD WITH WEAPON WOULD  
VIOLATE SOME DEEPLY HELD CONVICTION. OTHER OFFICIALS  
INDICATED THAT MR. CARTER'S DECISION WAS BASED ON DOUBTS  
ABOUT WHETHER ALLIED GOVERNMENTS WERE PREPARED TO ALLOW  
BOMB'S DEPLOYMENT IF ARMS CONTROL TALKS WITH MOSCOW ON  
SUBJECT FAILED." BURT SAID PRESIDENT WAS SUPPORTED IN  
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THESE VIEWS BY POLITICAL ADVISERS IN WHITE HOUSE AND BY  
AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG. HE SAID U.S. HAS STARTED TO  
INFORM ALLIED GOVERNMENTS PRIVATELY OF ITS DECISION.

2. WALTER PINCUS OF WASHINGTON POST QUOTED AN ADMINISTRA-  
TION OFFICIAL AS SAYING "NO FINAL DECISION HAS YET  
BEEN TAKEN" ON NEUTRON WEAPON "BUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE  
EXPECT IT TO HAPPEN THIS WEEK." PINCUS SAID DEFENSE  
SECRETARY BROWN, ACCORDING TO ADMINISTRATION SOURCES, WILL  
PLAY KEY ROLE IN ADVISING CARTER ON WEAPON. "EVEN IN HIS  
STATEMENTS SUPPORTING NEUTRON WEAPONS, BROWN HAS NOTED  
THAT THEY WERE DESIRABLE, RATHER THAN NECESSARY IN UP-  
GRADING NATO FORCES," PINCUS POINTED OUT. HE SAID AMBAS-  
SADOR YOUNG, WHO HAS PUBLICLY COME OUT AGAINST NEUTRON  
WEAPONS, REPORTEDLY TOLD WHITE HOUSE IT WOULD FACE DIF-  
FICULT TIME AT SSOD IF PRESIDENT ORDERED PRODUCTION WITH-  
OUT ACCOMPANIMENT OF PUBLIC SUPPORT BY NATO LEADERS.

3. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL  
REPORT FROM NEW YORK ON AMBASSADOR WARNKE'S APRIL 3  
SPEECH AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. DISPATCH SAID WARNKE  
STATED THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH SOVIET UNION

ON NEARLY ALL PROVISIONS OF COMPREHENSIVE SALT TWO AGREEMENT. UPI SAID WARNKE DENIED SUGGESTIONS THAT SALT NEGOTIATIONS ARE STALEMATED, AND DECLARED "SOVIET UNION HAS SHOWN GREAT DEAL OF RESPONSIVENESS."

4. ROBERT KAISER OF WASHINGTON POST, QUOTING ADMINISTRATION SOURCES, SAID VANCE WILL TRAVEL TO MOSCOW LATER THIS MONTH FOR HIGH-LEVEL STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE OF AFRICA. "FINAL PLANS FOR VANCE TRIP, INCLUDING SPECIFIC DATES, HAVE NOT BEEN SET, BUT AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES SAID BOTH COUNTRIES HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON DESIRABILITY OF VISIT," KAISER REPORTED. HE SAID PLAN TO SEND VANCE TO MOSCOW IS ONE RESULT OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION EARLY LAST MONTH TO PRESS AHEAD NOW  
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TO COMPLETE STALLED NEGOTIATIONS ON SALT AGREEMENT. ADMINISTRATION SOURCES, KAISER REPORTED, SAID VANCE WILL RAISE U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS IN AFRICA DURING HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW. "ONE AUTHORITATIVE OFFICIAL TOLD SMALL GROUP OF REPORTERS YESTERDAY THAT U.S. MUST REACH BROAD UNDERSTANDING WITH SOVIETS 'ONE WAY OR OTHER' ABOUT THEIR ULTIMATE AMBITIONS IN AFRICA. CONTINUE UNRESTRAINED SUPERPOWER COMPETITION ON THAT CONTINENT 'CAN REALLY GNAW AWAY AT FABRIC OF OUR RELATIONSHIP' WITH SOVIETS, THIS OFFICIAL SAID. THIS SOURCE CAN ONLY BE IDENTIFIED AS AN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL UNDER GROUND RULES OF HIS MEETING WITH REPORTERS. HIS POSITION IN EXECUTIVE BRANCH PUT HIM AT CENTER OF POLICY DISCUSSIONS ON NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS. SENIOR OFFICIAL IN STATE DEPARTMENT SAID YESTERDAY THAT VANCE ALSO THINKS SOVIETS AND U.S. MUST AGREE ON SOME 'RULES OF GAME' AND 'LIMITS' FOR THEIR COMPETITION IN AFRICA, WHICH THIS OFFICIAL PREDICTED WILL CONTINUE. THIS STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID VANCE WOULD NOT 'POUND ON TABLE' IN MOSCOW AND DEMAND CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY, BUT HE WOULD TRY TO 'REASON IT THROUGH WITH THEM,' TO DEMONSTRATE DANGERS OF CONTINUED SOVIET-CUBAN ADVENTURES IN AFRICA. REPETITION OF SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA OR ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA COULD HAVE 'MUCH GRAVER' CONSEQUENCES FOR SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS THAN CURRENT INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA, THIS OFFICIAL SAID. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WHO SPOKE TO REPORTERS YESTERDAY WAS ASKED WHAT THREAT U.S. COULD USE TO INDUCE SOVIETS TO MODERATE THEIR AFRICAN POLICY. OFFICIAL SAID HE WOULD PREFER TO SAVE 'OR ELSE,' AS IT WAS CALLED, FOR DIRECT MEETINGS WITH SOVIETS. HE DECLINED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC."

6. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
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HAS INFORMED ITS MEMBERS THAT COLLAPSE OF SALT AGREEMENT  
WITH SOVIET UNION COULD LEAD TO ADDITIONAL DEFENSE  
SPENDING OF AS MUCH AS 100 BILLION DOLLARS OVER NEXT 15  
YEARS. IN MEMO ON NATIONAL DEFENSE WRITTEN BY COMMITTEE  
STAFF MEMBERS, SENATORS WERE TOLD THAT CONGRESS MUST FACE  
KEY QUESTION SOON OF WHETHER TO INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING  
THREE PERCENT ANNUALLY. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** ARMS, POLICIES, AMBASSADORS, PRESS SUMMARIES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014